

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims, if entered, will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
accessing a first lookup table based on a first portion of a packet header, wherein
the first portion of the packet header comprises at least a first part of a multicast
group destination address, and
the first lookup table identifies a ~~portion~~ subset of a second lookup table, and
the ~~portion~~ subset of the second lookup table ~~comprising~~ comprises at least one
entry; and
accessing the ~~portion~~ subset of the second lookup table based on a second portion of the
packet header, wherein
the second portion of the packet header comprises at least a second part of
the multicast group destination address, and
the accessing the first lookup table and the accessing the ~~portion~~ subset of the
second lookup table are performed by a network device.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein
the second lookup table identifies at least one output interface via which a packet
comprising the packet header should be output.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein
the ~~portion~~ subset of the second lookup table corresponds to one of a plurality of scopes.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein
the ~~portion~~ subset of the second lookup table corresponds to a link-local scope of the
scopes if a scope of the multicast group destination address is link-local;
the ~~portion~~ subset of the second lookup table corresponds to a site-local scope of the
scopes if the scope of the multicast group destination address is site-local; and

the **portion subset** of the second lookup table corresponds to a global scope of the scopes if the scope of the multicast **group** destination address is global.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein
if a scope of ~~[[the]]~~ **a** source address comprised in the packet header is less than the scope of the multicast **group** destination address, each entry comprised in the **portion subset** of the second lookup table identifies only output interfaces associated with one of a plurality of zones, and
a scope of the one of the zones is equal to the scope of the source address.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein
the packet header comprises a source address,
the **portion subset** of the second lookup table corresponds to a shortest-path multicast tree if a match for the source address is found in the first lookup table, and
the **portion subset** of the second lookup table corresponds to a shared multicast tree if no match for the source address is found in the first lookup table.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein
the accessing the **portion subset** of the second lookup table comprises providing a key to the second lookup table, wherein
the key comprises an ID of a RPF (Reverse Path Forwarding) interface, and
the RPF interface received a packet in which the packet header was comprised.

8. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:
the first lookup table indicating at least one of an access control rule and a quality of service level in response to receiving a key associated with a packet.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising:
the second lookup table indicating a state of a network flow in response to receiving a key associated with a packet.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising:
accessing a third lookup table to forward a packet addressed to an IPv6 (Internet Protocol version 6) unicast destination address, wherein
a width of each entry in the third lookup table is less than a width of a key
comprising both an IPv6 destination address and an IPv6 source address.
11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the first lookup table identifies the ~~portion~~ subset of the second lookup table by identifying a mask, wherein a key generated using the mask only matches entries comprised in the ~~portion~~ subset of the second lookup table.
12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising:
applying the mask to the multicast group destination address and an interface ID,
wherein
the interface ID identifies an input interface that received a packet comprising the packet header.
13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein
the packet header comprises a source address;
the mask selects a portion of the source address identifying a scope of the source address
if the source address has a non-global scope;
the mask does not select any of the source address if the source address has a global scope.
14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein
the mask selects all of the source address if the accessing the first lookup table comprised matching an entry, which corresponds to a shortest-path multicast tree, in the first lookup table.
15. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising
applying the mask to the second portion of the packet header to produce a masked second portion; and
generating a hash based on the masked second portion, wherein

the accessing the second lookup table dependent on the second portion of the packet header comprises:
providing a key comprising the hash to the second lookup table.

16. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:
allocating a single entry in the first lookup table for each shortest-path multicast tree.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising:
for each shared multicast tree, allocating a first entry and a second entry in the first lookup table, wherein
the first entry matches a source address having a global scope, and
the second entry matches a source address having a non-global scope.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising:
allocating a plurality of entries in the second lookup table for each shared multicast tree,
wherein
each of the entries corresponds to a respective one of a plurality of scopes, and
each of the entries only identifies output interfaces included in a zone of the respective one of the plurality of scopes.

19. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
a network device, wherein the network device comprises:
a first lookup table comprising a plurality of first lookup table entries;
a second lookup table comprising a plurality of second lookup table entries; and
a lookup restriction unit wherein
the first lookup table is configured to identify first information in response to receiving a first key generated from a first portion of a packet header,
the first portion of the packet header ~~comprising~~ **comprises at least a first part of** a multicast ~~group~~ destination address,
the first information ~~identifying~~ **identifies** a ~~portion~~ **subset** of the second lookup table,

the ~~portion comprising~~ subset of the second lookup table comprises at least one of the second lookup table entries; and
 the lookup restriction unit is configured to prevent a second key generated from a second portion of the packet header from matching any second lookup table entry that is not comprised in the ~~portion~~ subset of the second lookup table identified by the first information, wherein
the second portion of the packet header comprises at least a second part of the multicast group destination address.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein
 the second lookup table is configured to identify second information in response to receiving the second key, the second information identifying at least one output interface via which a packet comprising the packet header should be output.
21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20, wherein
 the ~~portion~~ subset of the second lookup table corresponds to one of a plurality of scopes.
22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21, wherein
 the ~~portion~~ subset of the second lookup table corresponds to a link-local scope of the scopes if a scope of the multicast group destination address is link-local;
 the ~~portion~~ subset of the second lookup table corresponds to a site-local scope of the scopes if the scope of the multicast group destination address is site-local; and
 the ~~portion~~ subset of the second lookup table corresponds to a global scope of the scopes if the scope of the multicast group destination address is global.
23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 22, wherein
 if a scope of ~~[[the]]~~ a source address comprised in the packet header is less than the scope of the multicast group destination address, each second lookup table entry comprised in the ~~portion~~ subset of the second lookup table identifies only output interfaces associated with one of a plurality of zones, and
 a scope of the one of the zones is equal to the scope of the source address.

24. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20, wherein the **portion subset** of the second lookup table corresponds to a shortest-path multicast tree if a match for **[[the]] a** source address is found in the first lookup table; and the **portion subset** of the second lookup table corresponds to a shared multicast tree if no match for the source address is found in the first lookup table.
25. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the second key comprises an ID of a RPF (Reverse Path Forwarding) interface, and the RPF interface received a packet in which the packet header was comprised.
26. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20, wherein the first information comprises a mask, wherein a key generated using the mask only matches second lookup table entries comprised in the **portion subset** of the second lookup table.
27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 26, wherein the mask is applied to a source address, the multicast **group** destination address, and an interface ID to generate the second key, the source address is comprised in the packet header, and the interface ID identifies an input interface that received a packet comprising the packet header.
28. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein the mask selects a portion of the source address identifying a scope of the source address if the source address has a non-global scope; the mask does not select any of the source address if the source address has a global scope.
29. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein the mask selects all of the source address if the accessing the first lookup table comprised matching an entry, which corresponds to a shortest-path multicast tree, in the first lookup table.

30. (Original) The system of claim 26, wherein the mask is applied to the second portion of the packet header to produce a masked second portion, a hash is generated based on the masked second portion, and the second key comprises the hash.
31. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the first lookup table comprises one first lookup table entry for each shortest-path multicast tree.
32. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein the first lookup table comprises a first entry and a second entry for each shared multicast tree, the first entry matches a source address having a global scope, and the second entry matches a source address having a non-global scope.
33. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein the second lookup table comprises a plurality of entries for each shared multicast tree, each of the entries corresponds to a respective one of a plurality of scopes, and each of the entries only identifies output interfaces included in a zone of the respective one of the plurality of scopes.
34. (Currently Amended) A computer readable non-transitory storage medium storing program instructions executable by a processor to:
 allocate at least one entry in a first lookup table and at least one first entry in a ~~portion~~ subset of a second lookup table for each multicast tree, wherein the ~~portion~~ subset of the second lookup table ~~comprising~~ comprises at least one entry; and
 configure a lookup restriction unit to prevent a lookup in the second lookup table from matching entries not included in the ~~portion~~ subset of the second lookup table if a corresponding lookup in the first lookup table matches the at least one entry in the first lookup table.

35. (Previously Presented) The computer readable non-transitory storage medium of claim 34, wherein the program instructions are further executable to:

allocate a single entry in the first lookup table for each shortest-path multicast tree.

36. (Previously Presented) The computer readable non-transitory storage medium of claim 34, wherein the program instructions are further executable to:

allocate a first entry and a second entry in the first lookup table for each shared multicast tree, wherein

the first entry matches a source address having a global scope, and

the second entry matches a source address having a non-global scope.

37. (Previously Presented) The computer readable non-transitory storage medium of claim 36, wherein the program instructions are further executable to:

allocate a plurality of entries in the second lookup table for each shared multicast tree, wherein

each of the entries corresponds to a respective one of a plurality of scopes, and

each of the entries only identifies output interfaces included in a zone of the respective one of the plurality of scopes.

38. (Currently Amended) The computer readable non-transitory storage medium of claim 34, wherein the program instructions are further executable to:

configure the lookup restriction unit by storing a mask in a mask table, wherein a key generated using the mask will only match entries comprised in the **portion subset** of the second lookup table.

39. (Currently Amended) The computer readable non-transitory storage medium of claim 34, wherein the program instructions are further executable to:

access **[[a]]** the first lookup table based on a first portion of a packet header of a multicast packet, wherein

the first lookup table identifies the **portion subset** of **[[a]]** the second lookup table, and

the first portion of the packet header comprises at least a first part of a multicast group destination address; and

access the **portion subset** of the second lookup table based on a second portion of the packet header, **wherein**
the second portion of the packet header comprises at least a second part of
the multicast group destination address.

40. (Previously Presented) The computer readable non-transitory storage medium of claim 39, wherein the program instructions are further executable to:

provide a key to the second lookup table, wherein

the key is generated based on an ID of a RPF (Reverse Path Forwarding)

interface, and

the RPF interface received a packet in which the packet header was comprised.

41. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

network interface means for receiving a packet header via a network link;

means for accessing a first lookup table based on a first portion of the packet header,

wherein

the first portion of the packet header comprises **at least a first part of** a multicast
group destination address, **and**

the first lookup table identifies a **portion subset** of a second lookup table,

the **portion subset** of the second lookup table **comprising comprises** at least one
entry; and

means for accessing the **portion subset** of the second lookup table based on a second
portion of the packet header, **wherein**

the second portion of the packet header comprises at least a second part of
the multicast group destination address.

42. (Original) The system of claim 41, wherein

the second lookup table identifies at least one output interface via which a packet
comprising the packet header should be output.

43. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 42, wherein

the **portion subset** of the second lookup table corresponds to one of a plurality of scopes.

44. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 43, wherein the portion subset of the second lookup table corresponds to a link-local scope of the scopes if a scope of the multicast group destination address is link-local; the portion subset of the second lookup table corresponds to a site-local scope of the scopes if the scope of the multicast group destination address is site-local; and the portion subset of the second lookup table corresponds to a global scope of the scopes if the scope of the multicast group destination address is global.
45. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 44, wherein if a scope of [[the]] a source address comprised in the packet header is less than the scope of the multicast group destination address, each entry comprised in the portion subset of the second lookup table identifies only output interfaces associated with one of a plurality of zones, and a scope of the one of the zones is equal to the scope of the source address.
46. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 42, wherein the portion subset of the second lookup table corresponds to a shortest-path multicast tree if a match for the source address is found in the first lookup table; and the portion subset of the second lookup table corresponds to a shared multicast tree if no match for the source address is found in the first lookup table.
47. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 42, wherein the means for accessing the portion subset of the second lookup table provide a key to the second lookup table, wherein the key comprises an ID of a RPF (Reverse Path Forwarding) interface, and the RPF interface received a packet in which the packet header was comprised.
48. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 42, wherein the first lookup table identifies the portion subset of the second lookup table by identifying a mask, wherein a key generated using the mask only matches entries comprised in the portion subset of the second lookup table.

49. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 48, further comprising:
means for applying the mask to a multicast group destination address and an interface ID, wherein
the multicast group destination address is comprised in the packet header, and
the interface ID identifies an input interface that received a packet comprising the packet header.
50. (Original) The system of claim 49, wherein
the packet header comprises a source address;
the mask selects a portion of the source address identifying a scope of the source address
if the source address has a non-global scope;
the mask does not select any of the source address if the source address has a global scope.
51. (Original) The system of claim 50, wherein
the mask selects all of the source address if the accessing the first lookup table comprised
matching an entry, which corresponds to a shortest-path multicast tree, in the first lookup table.
52. (Original) The system of claim 42, further comprising
means for applying the mask to the second portion of the packet header to produce a masked second portion; and
means for generating a hash based on the masked second portion, wherein
accessing the second lookup table dependent on the second portion of the packet header comprises:
providing a key comprising the hash to the second lookup table.
53. (Original) The system of claim 42, further comprising:
means for allocating a single entry in the first lookup table for each shortest-path multicast tree.

54. (Original) The system of claim 53, further comprising:
means for allocating a first entry and a second entry in the first lookup table for each
shared multicast tree, wherein
the first entry matches a source address having a global scope, and
the second entry matches a source address having a non-global scope.
55. (Original) The system of claim 54, further comprising:
means for allocating a plurality of entries in the second lookup table for each shared
multicast tree, wherein
each of the entries corresponds to a respective one of a plurality of scopes, and
each of the entries only identifies output interfaces included in a zone of the
respective one of the plurality of scopes.